Top Angler™

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

EVERYONE
CONTENT RATED BY ESRB

XICAT INTERACTIVE

WARNING: READ BEFORE USING YOUR PLAYSTATION®2 COMPUTER ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM.

A very small percentage of individuals may experience epileptic seizures when exposed to certain light patterns or flashing lights. Exposure to certain patterns or backgrounds on a television screen or while playing video games, including games played on the PlayStation 2 console, may induce an epileptic seizure in these individuals. Certain conditions may induce previously undetected epileptic symptoms even in persons who have no history of prior seizures or epilepsy. If you, or anyone in your family, has an epileptic condition, consult your physician prior to playing. If you experience any of the following symptoms while playing a video game – dizziness, altered vision, eye or muscle twitches, loss of awareness, disorientation, any involuntary movement, or convulsions – IMMEDIATELY discontinue use and consult your physician before resuming play.

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Do not connect your PlayStation 2 console to a projection TV without first consulting the user manual for your projection TV, unless it is of the LCD type. Otherwise, it may permanently damage your TV screen.

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The use of software or peripherials not authorized by Sony Computer Entertainment America may damage your console and/or invalidate your warranty. Only official or licensed peripherals should be used in the controller ports or memory card slots.

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- This disc is intended for use only with PlayStation 2 consoles with the NTSC U/C designation.
- Do not bend it, crush it or submerge it in liquids.
- Do not leave it in direct sunlight or near a radiator or other source of heat.
- Be sure to take an occasional rest break during extended play.
- Keep this compact disc clean. Always hold the disc by the edges and keep it in its protective case when not in use. Clean the disc with a lint-free, soft, dry cloth, wiping in straight lines from center to outer edge. Never use solvents or abrasive cleaners.

Top Angler

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BEFORE YOU START PLAYING

This game includes an automatic saving and loading function. Therefore, in order to save your game data, you need to insert a memory card (8MB) (for PlayStation®2), with at least 72KB of free space, in MEMORY CARD slot 1 on your console. If there is not enough free space, or if you insert the Memory Card in MEMORY CARD slot 2, you will still be able to play the game, but note that you will not be able to save.

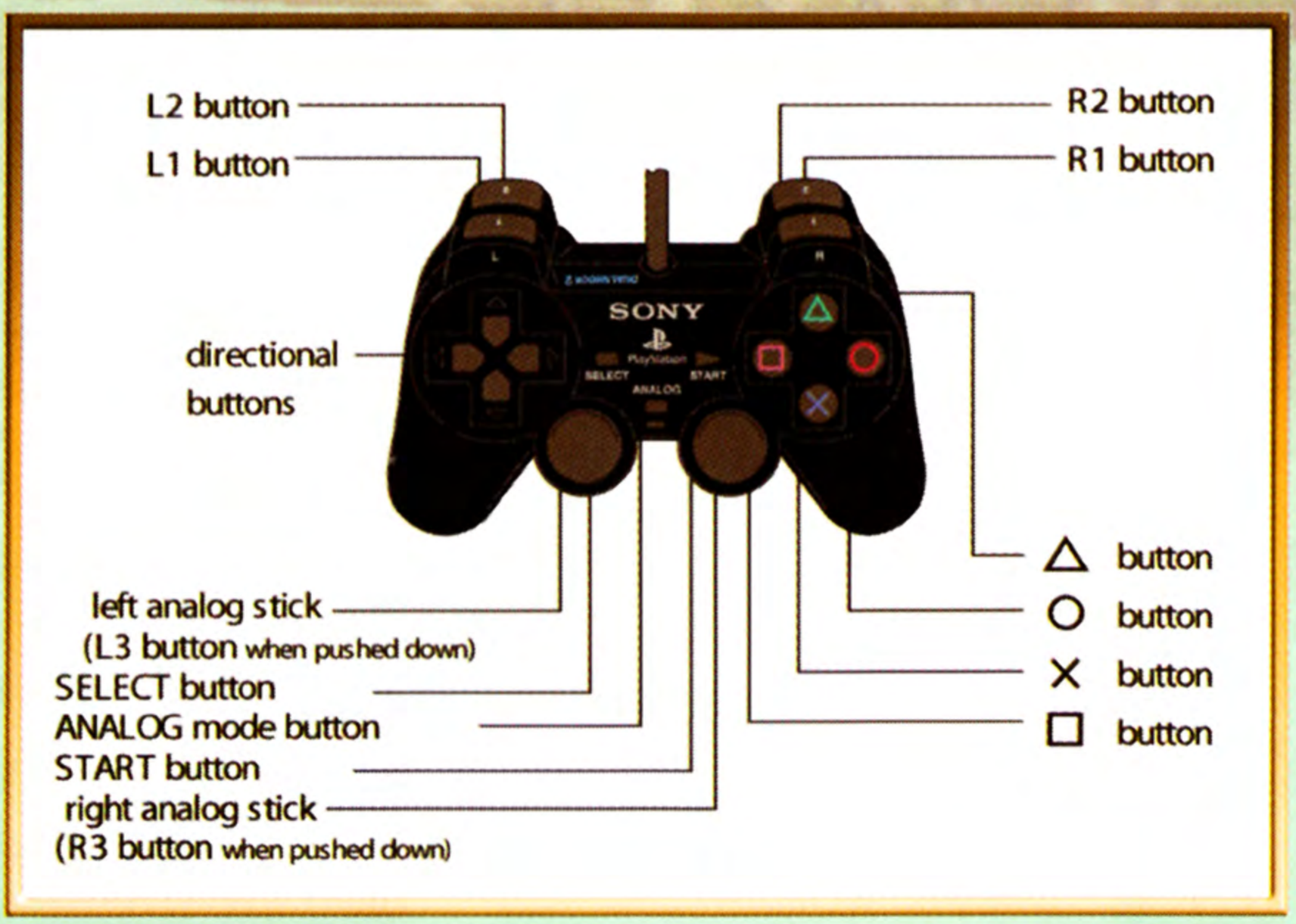
BASIC CONTROLS:

Button Names and Functions

First of all, please plug the Controller into Controller Port 1. Note that Controller Port 2 is not supported in this game.

The DUALSHOCK®2 Analog Controller Configuration

Note: *When using the right analog stick to retrieve, you can increase or decrease your reeling speed by means of the angle at which you push the stick down.*



STARTING THE GAME

Main Menu

In the title screen, pressing the START button will bring up the main menu, which starts the game. Use the Up/Down Directional buttons to select a mode, then press the [CIRCLE] or the [X] button to confirm your selection.

Menu Options

TOURNAMENT *In this mode, your aim is to become Top Angler by winning bass-fishing tournaments held at various lakes.*

ARCADE *In this mode, you have to catch a certain weight of bass within three minutes at each lake. The faster you clear a stage, the higher your time bonus will be.*

CHALLENGE *In this mode, you have to clear the standard for each stage, within a specified time.*

PRACTICE *In this mode, you can select the lake, the season, the time of day, the weather and other conditions. You can also learn to find where the bass are, which will come in useful in other modes.*

OPTION *In this mode, you can change various settings and carry out sound-tests.*

SAVE & LOAD *In this mode, you can save and load your own game data files.*

READING THE SCREEN

This page shows the structure of the game screen (i.e. the fishing screen). Essentially, the screen remains the same in all modes, but in some modes, the Time and Total Weight are displayed differently.

The Fishing Screen (Casting)

POWER
MAX

The Fishing Screen (Underwater / Fighting)

THE GAME FLOW

Selecting the Lure

On the Cast Point Select screen, pressing the [TRIANGLE] button switches to the Lure Select screen. There are different lures for the four different ranges, and you can switch between ranges by moving the cursor left/right.

Changing the Lure Color

On this screen, you can change the color of the lure by pressing the L1 and R1 buttons.

- *L1: Natural color*
- *R1: Appeal color*

Note: *The time clock continues to move on while you are in the Lure Select screen.*

Moving the Cast Point

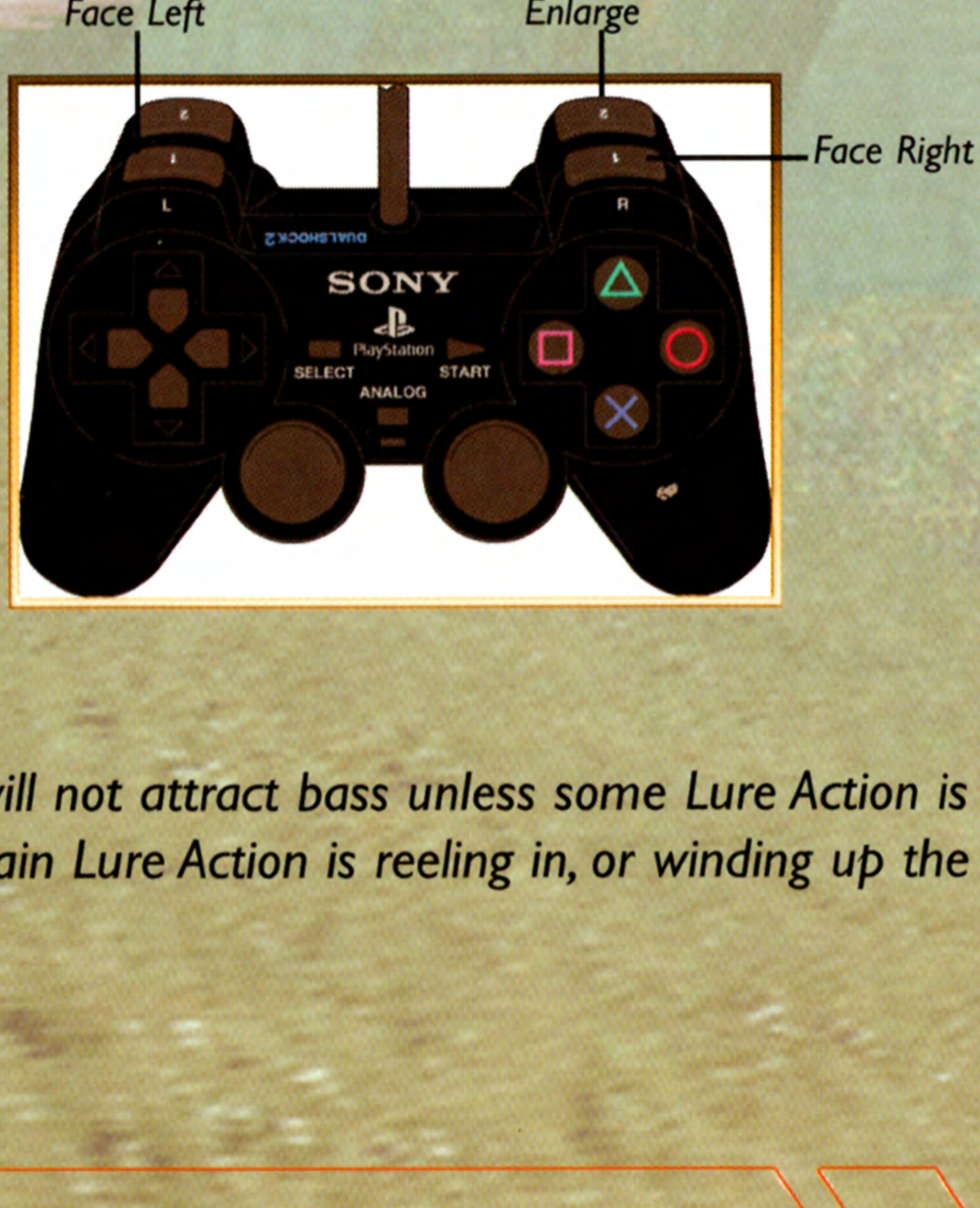
Use the Left/Right Directional buttons to move the Cast Point, then press the [CIRCLE] button or the [X] button to confirm your target point.

You can also home in on the fish shadows by enlarging the screen. (But note that when it is raining, or in certain other types of weather, the water surface will be choppy, and you will not be able to see them.)

Casting

Once you have confirmed your cast target, the Power Meter will be displayed at the bottom of the screen. Line it up with the target location, then press the [CIRCLE] button or the [X] button to confirm the casting distance.

Cast Point Operations



Lure Actions

Most lures will not attract bass unless some Lure Action is carried out on them. The main Lure Action is reeling in, or winding up the line.

If you reel in too fast or too slow, you will not get the most out of the lure's special features, which are what makes it attractive to the bass. The reeling speed can be adjusted delicately by adjusting the angle at which you bend the right analog stick. Do plenty of experimentation to find the best reeling speed for each lure.

Another effective Lure Action is shaking, or moving the lure slightly using the Directional buttons.

Hooking

When a Lure Action is successful, a bass is attracted and approaches the lure. When this happens, the screen switches to show the bass, which then swallows the lure. To hook the bass, you have to work the Directional buttons at the exact moment when the bass swallows the lure. If your timing is off, the bass will get away.

Fighting

When you succeed in hooking a bass, the word "HIT" appears, the screen splits, and the "fight" begins. During a fight, pay close attention to the line tension and the marker icon.

When the Line Tension indicator is red:

Red means that the line is too tight and in danger of breaking.

Do not reel in. Use the Directional buttons to move in the direction of the marker icon.

When the Line Tension indicator is blue:

Blue means that the line is too slack and the fish may get away from the lure.

Reel in, and use the Directional buttons to move in the direction of the marker icon.

Note: You start out with three lures of the same type. Whenever your line breaks, you lose a lure. Once you have run out of lures of a particular type, you can no longer use that lure in the current stage.

When you move on to the next stage, your stock of lures will be replenished.

If your fish gets off the hook, you do not lose the lure.

Landing

When the line comes within a certain distance of the boat, the camera view switches to show the water surface. When this happens, you should move the bass inside the semicircle displayed.

TOURNAMENT MODE

In this mode, you take part in a total of 5 Bass Tournaments. In each Tournament, you can earn "prize points" by winning stages, and the overall winner is the one with the highest annual total of prize points.

In Tournament mode, environmental conditions change with the seasons, and the light, weather and temperature also change in real time.

Tournament Rules

Number of Tournaments: *5 in total (= one season)*

- *You take part in a total of 5 tournaments over the period from spring through autumn.*
- *There are no entry conditions for the first four tournaments, but for*

the fifth, you cannot enter unless your total score is ranked 3rd or higher overall.

Tournament hours: *From 06:00 to 18:00*

- *The outcome is decided over this twelve-hour period.*
- *During the game, you can exit a tournament already in progress by selecting "WEIGH IN" on the Pause menu.*
- *If you come up to the time limit during a Fight, you can have extra time (up to a maximum of 30 minutes), but only at the penalty of having 5lbs. subtracted from your total weight.*

Victory conditions: *Victory is decided by the total weight of the 5 best fish you catch.*

- *Ranking is based on the total weight of target fish.*
- *Points are earned for ranking positions 1 through 10.*

Target fish Varieties of Black Bass

- *Florida Largemouth*
- *Northern Largemouth*
- *Smallmouth*
- *Redeye*

During the game, you can catch four types of Black Bass and Bluegills, but the Bluegills are not counted. Therefore, any Bluegills you catch will be released rather than being held in your livewell.

Tournament Rankings and Points Earned

Ranking	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Points earned	50	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	1

Starting a Mode

When you select "TOURNAMENT" on the main menu, the choices "NEW GAME" and "CONTINUE" will be shown in the middle of the screen. If you want to resume a previously-saved game, select "CONTINUE". If you are playing for the very first time, or if you have not saved any previous sessions, select "NEW GAME".

Name Entry

When you start a new game, the first step is to enter your name. The name you input can be up to 11 characters long.

Tournament Schedule

When you have entered your name, the Tournament Schedule screen will appear. In Tournament mode, the game follows a fixed schedule, so you cannot skip any of the tournaments.

Tournament Name and Details

Next, information about the upcoming tournament is displayed. This consists of the tournament name, the location name, the season (i.e. month), the hours, and the weather forecast. Work out your tournament strategy on the basis of this information.

The Pause Menu

In the fishing screen, pressing the START button temporarily stops the game and brings up the Pause Menu. In Tournament mode, the information on the Pause Menu is partially different from what appears in other modes: it includes a "LIVE WELL" and "WEIGH IN" section. The "LIVE WELL" section displays the weight of bass caught so far, and the current player's ranking. The "WEIGH IN" section can be used to end a tornament early; if you are happy with your days catch.

Note: *The rankings displayed in the "LIVE WELL" section are provisional. Your competitors' weights may increase as time passes, so bear this in mind when you use the "WEIGH IN" section.*

Rankings, and Saving Results

When a Tournament is over, the results (i.e. the players' rankings) are displayed. If you are amongst the top three, you will receive your award on the winners' podium. Next, the overall ranking for the tournament will be displayed. If you are not among the top three overall, you will not be able to enter the final tournament, so keep an eye on your competitors' scores.

Saving Tournament Results

As a rule, the progress of the game is saved automatically, but you can decide for yourself whether to save tournament results. If you fail to get a satisfactory result, you can play the tournament all over again.

ARCADE MODE

In Arcade mode, the goal is to catch the standard weight for the stage in question, within three minutes. There are three "courses", or difficulty levels, and each course is made up of three stages. The winner is the one with the highest total score over all three stages.

At first, you can only choose the "Easy" course, but as you update the High Scores for each course, the more difficult courses will become available to you. At first, you can only choose the Easy course.

Progressing Through the Game

In Stages 1 and 2, you can proceed to the next stage even if you fail to catch the stage standard weight within the allotted time.

Your Score

Your "Stage Weight" is the total weight of fish you caught in the current stage. Your "Time Bonus" is the time remaining when you cleared the stage. A "Clear Bonus" is awarded if you catch the stage standard weight within the set time. "Stage Point" is the total of these three figures.

How to Get Up There in the High Scores

The faster you clear a stage, the higher your Time Bonus will be, so you should find the biggest fish quickly and catch them as soon as you can.

The quickest way to earn a High Score is to try out various spots to find out where the largest fish are lurking in each lake.

CHALLENGE MODE

In this mode, the conditions for clearing the stage are displayed in the top right corner of the screen. In Challenge mode, you need to work out strategies for stages with completely different clearing conditions. Whereas Tournament mode simulates bass fishing tournaments and Arcade mode focuses on gaining a High Score, Challenge mode offers another way to enjoy bass fishing.

In Challenge mode, what you need is playing skill. Make full use of your skill and knowledge of fishing to take on the challenges it presents.

Stages that Cannot be Selected

When you first play the game, you will find that only 7 stages are available for selection. Once you clear these 7 stages and build up a good score in Tournament mode and Arcade mode, the other stages will become available to you.

When There's a Stage You Just Can't Seem to Clear ...

Try those difficult stages again later, when you've gained more lures!

In Challenge mode, as in other modes, some stages require the use of particular lures best suited to specific conditions. Immediately after starting the game, you only have a few lures, so these stages can be difficult to clear. If you have trouble the first time, try again later when you have acquired more lures.

PRACTICE MODE

In Practice mode, you can hone your bass-fishing skills at your own pace, without worrying about any standard weight. You can select your preferred lake, season, time of day and weather. Choose a lure to suit the lake, season and weather, and also see the lake terrain.

AREA

Select lake: *Select the lake you want to play. When you first play the game, only three lakes will be available for selection, but as you move through the game in various modes, the rest of the lakes will appear, and become available to you.*

SEASON

Select the season: *Select a season. Regardless of how advanced you are in the game, you can choose from among the four seasons Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.*

LODGES

Difficulty	Water depth	Average temp.	Temp. changes	Weather changes
Easy	Shallow	Fairly low	Dramatic	Dramatic

START TIME

Select start time: *Select the time of day it is at the start of play. The time-bands and session lengths available are as follows.*

- ***MORNING:*** *06:00 to 18:00* *Session length: 30 minutes*
- ***NOON:*** *10:00 to 18:00* *Session length: 20 minutes*
- ***EVENING:*** *14:00 to 18:00* *Session length: 10 minutes*

WEATHER

Select weather: *Select the weather conditions at the lake. Depending on the season, fishing conditions may change although the weather category remains the same.*

- ***FINE:*** *You can hope for the best, but if the temperature is too high, you will not be able to fish.*
- ***CLOUD:*** *On average, fishing is easy in this weather.*
- ***RAIN:*** *Care is needed if the temperature drops too low, or the water gets too muddy*

WEATHER CHANGE

Select Weather Change function setting: *You can turn the Weather Change function ON or OFF. If you turn it ON, the WEATHER you have selected will apply when the game starts, but will change over time. If you turn it OFF, the WEATHER you have selected will remain unchanged throughout.*

Fish that can be caught	*Seasonal suitability*	*Main structures*
Redeye Bass	*Spring: Good*	*Lodge*
	Summer: Average	*Jetty*
Smallmouth Bass	*Autumn: Average*	*Boathouse*
	Winter: Poor	*Reeds*

AREAS

The areas available in this game are a number of lakes, each with its own character.

Here is a brief guide to the "Lodge" area, which is used as a typical example.

Lodge

This lakeside fishing lodge in the mountains is set in a beautiful location, its main features being waterside plants, and a jetty provided for bass-fishing boats. The difficulty level is comparatively low.

Strategy Tips

- *Soft lures work best here.*
- *Look for fish under the jetty. Watch the area under the cliff in bad weather.*
- *Target Fish: Smallmouth & Redeye*

Use a Spinner in the shallows, and a Soft Lure in the deep water under the jetty!

Because the water is deep overall, the fishing on this lake is subtly affected by changes in light and temperature. It might seem, at first glance, that this would make the lake strategically difficult to fish. However, when the air temperature is too high, or conversely, when it falls too low, bass tend to gather in the shallows, and since this lake has few shallow areas, there are only a few places where the fish are likely to be. Start off by throwing a few lures to find the places where the water is shallow.

Another helpful factor is that the boat is never very far away from the shore, so you can reel in quickly, and that means you can cast more

often.

This location is ideal for beginners at bass fishing.

LURES

Each type of lure is suitable for a particular depth, and particular Casting Actions. If you get to know your lures, and choose the right one for the conditions, your performance will improve dramatically.

Depth (Ranges)

Different types of lures should be used for different purposes, depending on the depth to which they sink.

In this game, lures are divided into four groups according to their sinking depth ranges (see the diagram on the left). Remember to note the water DEPTH reading displayed while you are reeling in, and choose a lure appropriate for the range where the bass are hiding.

The LURE SELECT Screen

The four options across the top of the LURE SELECT screen are four ranges, starting with TOP at the left, and becoming deeper as you move towards the right.

Soft Lures and Hard Lures

Lures are broadly divided into three categories, according to the material they are made from.

Characteristics and Disadvantages of Each Type of Lure

Soft Lure

Characteristics: *Easily swallowed by bass, Can be thrown anywhere*
Disadvantages: *Difficult to handle*

Hard Lure (plastic)

Characteristics: *Easy to handle, Averagely effective*
Disadvantages: *No outstanding capacities*

Hard Lure (metal)

Characteristics: *Stands up well to tough conditions, Sinks fast*
Disadvantages: *Does not perform well in normal conditions*

Floating Minnow

When you stop reeling, this type of lure will float. Its floating action makes it look like the kind of small fish on which bass prey, and this attracts bass.

Lure attributes	Suitable range	Dropping speed	Lure handling
Hard (plastic)	Top	Fast	EASY
	MIDDLE	Normal	Normal
	Deep	Slow	Fairly difficult
	Bottom	NONE	Difficult

Shallow Crank

This type of lure should be used to catch bass in comparatively shallow ranges. An easy way of heightening its appeal is to shake it using the Directional buttons while reeling.

Lure attributes	Suitable range	Dropping speed	Lure

handling			
Hard (plastic)	*Top*	*Fast*	
EASY			
	MIDDLE	*Normal*	*Normal*
	Deep	*Slow*	*Fairly difficult*
	Bottom	*NONE*	*Difficult*

Vibration

Ball-bearings inside the lure rattle while it is being reeled, and this attracts bass. Reeling jerkily makes it more effective.

Lure attributes	Suitable range	Dropping speed	Lure handling
Hard (plastic)	*Top*	*Fast*	*EASY*
	MIDDLE	*Normal*	*Normal*
	Deep Slow	*Fairly*	*difficult*
	Bottom	*NONE*	*Difficult*

Suspended Shad Plug

This type of lure will stay in place when you stop reeling. You can use this characteristic to create a space where the bass can approach and swallow the lure.

Lure attributes	Suitable range	Dropping speed	Lure handling
Hard (plastic)	*Top*	*Fast*	*Easy*
	MIDDLE	*Normal*	*NORMAL*
	Deep	*Slow*	*Fairly difficult*
	Bottom	*NONE*	*Difficult*

Pencil Bait

This type of lure floats on the surface, and is highly effective when the weather is fine and the temperature just right. Some experience is required to use it skilfully.

Lure attributes	Suitable range	Dropping speed	Lure handling
Hard (plastic)	*TOP*	*Fast*	*Easy*
	Middle	*Normal*	*Normal*
	Deep	*Slow*	*Fairly difficult*
	Bottom	*NONE*	*DIFFICULT*

Straight Tail

This type of lure is more likely to be swallowed by a bass than any other kind. However, because it is a soft lure, it is difficult to control the reeling speed accurately.

Lure attributes	Suitable range	Dropping speed	Lure handling
Soft	Top	Fast	Easy
	MIDDLE	NORMAL	Normal
	Deep	Slow	FAIRLY DIFFICULT
	Bottom	None	Difficult

Spinner

Although designed for rainbow-trout fishing, this type of lure also works for bass, and is widely used for this purpose. Because it dives fast, it is suitable for finding bass.

Lure attributes	Suitable range	Dropping speed	Lure handling
Hard (metal)	Top	FAST	Easy
	Middle	Normal	Normal
	Deep	Slow	FAIRLY DIFFICULT
	BOTTOM	None	Difficult

Note: *Besides those listed above, you can also acquire other types of lures as you progress through the game. Some lures can only be acquired by winning a tournament, others by attaining a High Score in Arcade mode, and so on. Do your best to build up a complete set of lures.*

Thank you for purchasing "Real Bass Fishing TOP ANGLER" for the PlayStation 2. Before you start the game, please be sure to read this manual.

CREDITS

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Xicat interactive Customer Support is available from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (EST) M-F with the exception of national holidays. The number is (954) 522-3900. x204

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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

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